

### **HIGHER FHA MORTGAGE LIMITS TAKE EFFECT**

HUD rang in 2006 right with a 15.9 percent increase in the maximum mortgage FHA – the Federal Housing Administration – will insure in most parts of the state for endorsements on or after January 1<sup>st</sup>. FHA will now insure one-family mortgages up to \$200,160; two-family mortgages up to \$256,248; three-family mortgages up to \$309,744; and four-family mortgages up to \$384,936. In the “high-cost” Richmond-Petersburg metro area, the one-family FHA limit rose 10.9 percent to \$238,025, in the Charlottesville metro area it rose 23.4 percent to \$261,250, in the Winchester metro area it rose 6.7 percent to \$253,320 and in northern Virginia communities like Fredericksburg and Prince William, Stafford and Spotsylvania counties it rose 14.9 percent to \$362,790. For the new FHA limits in your area, read Mortgagee Letter 2005-49 or visit [www.hud.gov/local/index.cfm?state=va&topic=homeownership](http://www.hud.gov/local/index.cfm?state=va&topic=homeownership)

### **HOMEOWNERSHIP U. FOR FAITH & COMMUNITY GROUPS**

Does your faith- or community-based organization want to learn more about how FHA mortgage insurance can promote homeownership and asset building in your community? Then attend the free “How FHA Works” session from 9:30 to 12:30, Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at HUD Richmond. For reservations, contact [Leland\\_jones@hud.gov](mailto:Leland_jones@hud.gov) or call 800/842-2610, ext. 3743. Space is limited.

### **\$20.9 MILLION FOR VIRGINIA HOMELESS PROGRAMS**

More than 70 non-profit groups and local governments associated with Continuums of Care in Charlottesville, Danville, the Eastern Shore, Fredericksburg, Harrisonburg, Lynchburg, Norfolk, Newport News, Portsmouth, Richmond, Roanoke, and southwestern and northern Virginia have been awarded \$20.9 million in HUD funds to help “persons and families who deserve a place they can call home.”

### **BRIEF BRIEFS**

HUD Secretary Jackson launches Mortgage Assistance Initiative to make mortgage payments for up to one year for disaster victims with FHA-insured mortgages who want to start living in their homes again. . .Social Security Administration seeking applications by January 31<sup>st</sup> for \$100,000 grants from public and non-profit and faith-based agencies demonstrating “methods to improve quality of assistance” provided to “homeless individuals who file claims for Social Security”. . .Danville chosen to host 7<sup>th</sup> annual Statewide Neighborhood Conference in September. . .VHDA holds “how-to” workshops on Low Income Tax Credits January 4<sup>th</sup> in Falls Church, January 5<sup>th</sup> in Richmond and January 6<sup>th</sup> in Virginia Beach. . .Governor Warner announces 22 Virginia Land Conservation Foundation grants totaling \$9.7 million to acquire more than 1,300 acres for open space, historic preservation and rural conservation. . .Abingdon bests 150 other communities to win 2006 “Dream Town USA” competition. . .*Bristol Herald-Courier* reports that, after “six months, one week and one day,” Meadowview First has successfully raised \$700,000 to match \$700,000 DHCD grant for new 12,000 square-foot community and medical center. . .Thomas J. Mackell, Jr., of National Investment Managers, Inc., in Warrenton named chairman of the board of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. . .*Roanoke Times* says planning district commissions in southwest Virginia have helped form Round the Mountain network of 700 artisans in 19 counties to help “arts and crafts people tap into tourism”. . .Centers for Disease Control seeking applications by February 21<sup>st</sup> for up to 18 grants from state or local health departments for prevention and surveillance of lead poisoning among children. . .Work starts on revitalization of historic, downtown Pearisburg. . .Southwest Virginia Education & Training Network wins \$500,000 USDA distance learning grant. . .Virginia Association of Housing & Community Development Officials hold winter meeting at Omni in Richmond January 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>. . .Lisa Dibble leaves LynCAG to become director of New Land Samaritan Inn in Lynchburg. . .Galax City Council unanimously okays revolving loan fund for housing rehabilitation funded by loan repayment from earlier DHCD HOME grant. . .Piedmont Housing Alliance relocates to 111 Monticello Avenue, Suite 104, Charlottesville, 22902. . .Governor Warner announces \$5.2 million in CDBG grants to create 140 jobs in Floyd, Luray, Halifax, Northumberland, Sussex and Orange counties and connect 180 homes in Coeburn and Giles County to clean water. . .75 percent of Roanoke residents surveyed by Virginia Tech say city has “good mix of housing types and affordability”. . .DHCD hosting “how to” application workshops for Community Improvement grants January 24<sup>th</sup> in Richmond and January 26<sup>th</sup> in Abingdon. . .Contact [pearl\\_c.peebles@hud.gov](mailto:pearl_c.peebles@hud.gov) to attend January 17<sup>th</sup> U.S. Department of Treasury satellite broadcast on its 2006 Community Development Financial Institutions competition closing in February.

### **FUNDING-MENTALS**

Interested in HUD and other Federal funding streams? Attend free, two-day “Grantwriting & More” workshops at Virginia Beach Central Library February 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> or at Hampton University March 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>. Contact [anne\\_davis@hud.gov](mailto:anne_davis@hud.gov) or call 800/842-2610, extension 3741.

### **ROSS-PORTUNITY**

HUD Secretary Jackson awards authorities in Bristol, Chesapeake, Danville, Fairfax, Harrisonburg, Newport News, Norfolk, Petersburg, Portsmouth, Richmond and Roanoke \$996,335 to help public housing residents “on their way to self-sufficiency and homeownership.”

### **BARRIER BUSTING**

HUD Secretary Jackson has announced 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Woodson Award competition to honor communities demonstrating “outstanding leadership” in eliminating “excessive or unnecessary” regulatory barriers to affordable housing. Nominations are due March 15<sup>th</sup>. Download nomination materials at <http://www.hud.gov/initiatives/affordablecom.cfm>

### **ARE YOU e-READY?**

Congress has passed and President Bush has signed HUD’s 2006 appropriations bill. Before you know it, HUD will publish its SuperNOFA notice which, like last year, will urge electronic submission of applications for HUD’s competitive grants. Time is short. Have you obtained a DUNS number? DO IT TODAY! Registered with the Central Contract Registry? DO IT TODAY! Signed-on with [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)? DO IT TODAY! Get prepared using the grants.gov checklist at <http://www.grants.gov/RegistrationChecklist>. And, please, DO IT TODAY!.

### **DON’T FORGET**

The South Hampton Roads Conference on Ending Homelessness on February 1<sup>st</sup>, at Virginia Beach Convention Center. For more, contact [spuryear@theplanningcouncil.org](mailto:spuryear@theplanningcouncil.org) or call 757/622-9268, ext. 3008.

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